



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

***Raised Bill No. 1056***

LCO No. 6243



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND  
BONDING

Introduced by:  
(FIN)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A PLAN  
TO FOSTER THE MICROBIOME SECTOR IN THE STATE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working  
2       group to study legislative and programmatic initiatives and develop a  
3       roadmap to foster the microbiome sector in the state and establish the  
4       state as a leader in the development of new microbiome-based  
5       diagnostics and treatments. The working group shall seek to create an  
6       industry cluster of companies focused on medical applications of  
7       microbiome-based products and services and establish and cultivate  
8       working relationships to determine programs, networks and  
9       opportunities that are the most attractive and necessary to such  
10      companies to nurture their growth in the state.

11      (b) The working group shall consist of (1) the Commissioners of  
12      Economic and Community Development, Public Health and Revenue  
13      Services, or their designees, (2) the chairperson of the CTNext board of  
14      directors or the chairperson's designee, (3) the president of The

15 University of Connecticut or the president's designee, (4) the dean of  
16 The University of Connecticut School of Medicine or the dean's  
17 designee, (5) the president of the Board of Regents for Higher  
18 Education or the president's designee, and (6) the following, to be  
19 appointed by the Governor: (A) One representative of an independent  
20 institution of higher education in the state; (B) one representative of an  
21 independent medical school in the state; (C) one representative from  
22 Yale University or Yale University School of Medicine; (D) two  
23 representatives of bioscience companies located in the state and in  
24 business for five years or more; (E) two representatives of bioscience  
25 companies located in the state and in business for less than five years;  
26 (F) one representative of a venture capital firm located in the state; and  
27 (G) one individual who represents hospitals in the state. The working  
28 group may consult with industry stakeholders and representatives of  
29 microbiome companies, representatives of educational and research  
30 institutions that are focused on the microbiome sector, representatives  
31 of the medical field who have expertise in the medical applications of  
32 microbiome-based products and services and any other individuals or  
33 representatives of fields the working group deems necessary or  
34 appropriate to inform it on the microbiome sector.

35 (c) The working group shall investigate, analyze and develop  
36 initiatives that include, but need not be limited to, the following:

37 (1) Designate a state agency or quasi-public agency to establish and  
38 lead a program to attract and retain companies that are developing  
39 microbiome-based products and services. Such agency shall coordinate  
40 efforts across all economic development agencies and sectors in the  
41 state;

42 (2) Identify new and existing funds to provide financing to start-up  
43 microbiome companies and a research and development fund for early  
44 stage research projects that are likely to lead to new and improved  
45 microbiome-based products and services, develop strategies to  
46 publicize the availability of such funds and establish a quick and

47 efficient process for applying for such funds;

48 (3) Review state tax policy to develop a tax incentive program to  
49 lower the tax liability of established microbiome companies that  
50 relocate to or establish new lines of business in the state and to  
51 enhance the state's competitiveness within the northeastern states;

52 (4) Develop support services and networks for microbiome  
53 companies, including, but not limited to, access to (A) sequencing,  
54 analytics and other scientific services, and (B) management, legal,  
55 accounting and other professional services;

56 (5) Invest in high-quality, affordable laboratory and production  
57 space located near key partners and collaborators;

58 (6) Build linkages to private capital firms in the state with a strong  
59 interest in investing in the microbiome science field;

60 (7) Identify companies focused on microbiome science that are in  
61 early stage development and develop tools and financial incentives,  
62 including, but not limited to, sponsoring an annual competition for  
63 start-up microbiome companies and early stage research projects to  
64 recruit such companies to locate in or pursue such projects in the state;

65 (8) Create a marketing and outreach plan to inform the microbiome  
66 sector of the advantages of locating in, relocating to or establishing  
67 new lines of business in the state; and

68 (9) Review relevant state laws and regulations and make  
69 recommendations for legislative and programmatic changes to reduce  
70 or eliminate obsolete, unnecessary or overly burdensome regulatory  
71 hurdles to research, development and commercial activities in the  
72 microbiome sector.

73 (d) Not later than January 1, 2018, the working group shall submit a  
74 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, of its  
75 plan for the initiatives set forth in subsection (c) of this section to the

76 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
77 of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, commerce and  
78 public health. The report shall include (1) recommendations for  
79 legislative and programmatic changes to accomplish such plan, (2) for  
80 each initiative set forth in subsection (c) of this section, a proposed  
81 budget, listing options for full, medium and low funding levels, and  
82 (3) for each initiative set forth in subsection (c) of this section,  
83 recommended measureable and achievable goals and a proposed  
84 timetable for reaching such goals.

85 (e) Not later than February 1, 2018, the working group shall make a  
86 presentation to the General Assembly and the Governor of its report  
87 under subsection (d) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish a working group to develop legislative and programmatic initiatives to foster the microbiome sector in the state.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*